Hamilton's Autonomous Voice

FREE

Community Charge

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SOURCES OF SUFFERING

Now that the war is over, it is high time that we ask some questions about the Canadian weapons industry and Canada's international reputation as a peacekeeping nation.

Iraq, which was armed in large part by sophisticated Western weapons, was being bombed to the ground with a superior 'Allied' arsenal. Now Canada must face the fact that it has long been arming many regimes guilty of the same crimes committed by Iraq. Canada must put an end to the export of weapons as well as any further research to manufacture new weapon systems, if it wishes to live up to its (un)-worthy reputation as 'peacekeeper'.

One of the Allies' fears during the war was the possibility that Iraq would use fuel-air explosive (FAE) weapons, rivaling their nuclear arsenal. The UN wants to ban FAE's as 'inhumane' armaments. Although the development of FAE's have been largely undertaken by McGill University and various Canadian companies. The US company Honeywell was responsible for transferring FAE technology to Iraq. Similarily the Iraqi bombing of the Kurds was undertaken in counter--insurgency planes powered by Canadian Pratt and Whitney engines.

The El Salvadorian military, which commits atrocities against its own civilians through bombing raids, used a substantial number of Canadian weapons systems and components. These flow to the US through Defence Production Sharing Arrangements and then are sent to El Salvador. Canadian weapons were used by Argentina's military during the coup of 1955 they also flowed into the

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A NEW SUPERSTATE

A new superstate is about to be born. And its founding principles are the repression of political dissent, racist immigration controls and the sanctity of the free market. It may sound like South Africa but it's the Europe of 1992. For by the end of that year the internal trade borders of the 12 European Community (EC) countries will be abolished and new Euro-wide terrorism, immigration and asylum regulations will be enforced, making it impossible for a huge range of so-called 'undesirables' to enter or move around the 'community'.

The new superstate is designed to provide the perfect business environment, pretected from imported goods, 'alien peoples' and political radicalism. To this end new Euro-wide policing powers have been introduced designed to increase the level of social surveillance on suspect political and nonEuropean immigrant groups.

Some of the most far reaching of these powers come under the control of the TREVI group of interior ministers (TREVI stands for terrorism, radicalism, extremism, violence and international). Formed in 1976 to combat terrorism, TREVI has now widened its mandate to include immigration, public order and all forms of political 'extremism'.

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WHY THE AMERICAN'S WON THE WAR

One word can be used to describe the war in the Gulf, that word is overwhelming. By it's very nature, any war is overwhelming. What is extraordinary about this conflict is the way Amerika flat out won a military, political and moral (not in the progressive sense of the word) victory. There are various factors that played roles in this victory, there were also many new factors unveiled by the critic's eye through the duration of this conflict. The latter were unfortunate, but predictable. So we must look at these if we are to understand what really happened and what's about to.

Timing: Very bluntly, for Amerika this war could not of been better timed. It is no secret that the US (as well as most of the Western Industrial states) are in the middle of economic recession. Regardless of Amerika's upper hand in the free trade deals; they simply have not found themselves in a position to compete in world markets until now. Due to the rising economic strength of unified European and Japanese markets, control of the Middle East is a road to U.S. economic stability.

Politically: With the U.S.'s growing economic problems, this was a great opportunity,to exercise world hemogony, with the declining power of the Soviet Union. The formally "Great Russian Bear" is now seen struggling to prevent it's own people from rising up. While the U.S. in its all shining glory can keep a lid on intern- al dissent by keeping its exploited community embroiled in a war on drugs.

Tactics: The obvious reasons for the victory in the Gulf, are the tactics and strategy used by the Amerikan led forces. Some we had never seen before, most, however were an accumalation of past sucess and failure and new policies. For the last forty years Amerika has built up its forces both nuclear and conventional (like any other army). However they have engaged their tactics in real situations, one being Central America. Their losses have remained minimal, since only their tactics are tried, not their troops. This has lent them time to grow, on a military and political level without the loss of life, by remaining in "2nd person" militarily. The only instances where Amerika was directly involved (pathing the way for how they acted in the Gulf) were Panama and Grenada. All three of these conflicts were "in-out" operations. This tactic is sucessful because no one has time to react. Amerika's greatest loss was Vietnam, unfortunatly they learned. In the Gulf they took the opportunity to propagandize before engaging in war. The build up of troops also took less time. More study was given to the conditions of the desert, when little study was given to the jungles of Vietnam. They also encouraged their "allies" to build up troop patterns only when Iraq would move first, for defence is politically pleasing.

Media: Support or failure to support a war effort can be largely traced to the media's portrayal of that conflict. Our images of the other side are also largely shaped by the media, they helped create the Iraqi monster. They encouraged the image of the Arab terrorist. Fueling racism at home, helping Amerika's assurred victory politically.

The Anti-War Movement: We (dare I say) possibly helped the moral 'victory' at home. Like always vangaurds, 'leaders' and demo behavior flew in every direction but theirs. The 'movement' seemed too busy discrediting the "students tearing up the streets". People not showing up to demonstrations because "it's too cold".

The Pro-War Movement: Unlike most wars a 'pro-war movement' had time to organise enough that the media gave attention to it, and left us to bicker. They had no middle ground to tred and they had no arguments over organisation, this is not to support their efforts. The ability to create an effective pro-war movement is frightening in itself. A quick victory in the Gulf, only served to support their pro-war stand. Now a new generation of patriots is born, overshadowing a new generation of poor. There hasn't been support like this since the last World War! The result of this war for the world is a U.S. precise and uncompromising. The strongest force on earth, their military and

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A New Superstate Continued...

TREVI has also developed various shared information systems, including a list of 59 countries whose nationals will require visas to enter the EC and a common list of 'undersirables' from non-EC countries. Each member state is free to add on its own additional list of 'undesirables' from within the EC.

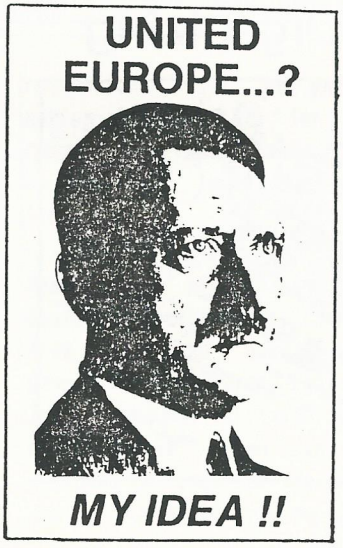
TREVI is a tool in the development of the EC superstate. It is, of course, totally outside the control of the remote and ineffectual European parliament or any other 'democratic' structure.

Another similarily undemocratic, unaccountable, body is the Schengen Accord (2). Introduced in 1990 Schengen's function is to close 'security loopholes' that will arise following the abolition of border controls. The huge amount of information that has been assembled to fulfill this task covers a predictable range of EC and non-EC citizens: aliens classed as undesirable; asylum applications; persons under surveillance and those with a criminal record. Such 'undesirables' will be able to be tracked wherever they go in the new superstate.

It is no coincidence that as these oppressive measures are put into place a new tide of racism is being institutionalized on the continent. In the U.K., for example, citizenship has been removed from people without an ancestral connection to Britain whilst in France new immigration laws make it possible for French born North Africans to be deported. Moreover, the percentage of asylum seekers granted refuge in the EC has fallen from 65% in 1980 to 10% in 1990.

What we are witnessing is the rise of a new authoritarian and racist superpower. Despite all the trade-war rhetoric, North American capitalists are hoping the United States of Europe becomes a reality sooner rather than later. The search for the perfect money making environment, free from political dissent and discontented minorities, binds the fortunes of Euro and American superstates together.

Yet although they need each other do we need them? It is clear that the functions of these states is to control their citizens. They simply don't trust their own populations to be obedient and do as they are told. In this, at least they are right. It is becoming more and more obvious, as the new superstates extend their oppressive controls into every area of our daily lives, that it isn't us who need them but the other way around.



Suffering Continued

hands of the murderous Chilean regime under Augusto Pinochet. Canadian companies profited in all three cases.

Canadian hypocracy is most apparent in Indonesia. Canada's third largest receipent of Canadian foreign aid, Indonesia has a simular history to Iraq, in that both have invaded small neighbouring states. In 1975 Indonesia invaded East Timor shortly after its decolonization from France. Repeated human rights abuses have been documented and one third of the Timorese population have been killed as a result of this brutal war. The Light Armoured Vehicle, a Canadian tank advertised for its firepover, has been sold to Indonesia, where hypothetically they could be used for search and rescue operations. Our government's policy to control weapons exports from being sold to human rights abusers are blinders they put upon us, because such controls simply do not exist.

These are the same peacekeepers who shun an invasion such as Kuwait's, yet blagarantly invade Native Nations within their own borders. These are the same peacekeepers that push for stricter arms control policy, yet they sponsor ARMX, the largest arms exhibition in the world, to be held this May in Carp, Ontario.

WAR ON THE POOR

With the second recession in a decade upon us, Brian Mulroney and his lackeys continue to heighten their war on the poor and working peoples in Canada. The government is following the International Monetary Fund's orders to cutback drastically on social programs. With 900,000 people now depending on welfare, the Tories are refusing to sufficiently fund municipal welfare offices. By doing this they have left many previously working people without enough money to live.

While Micheal Wilson talks about saving Canada we should be looking at who he is really saving. Under Tory rule the corporate class grew wealthier and the poor grew. By signing free trade and increasing the value of the dollar, Brian let hundreds of industries leave to cheaper production areas like the U.S. and made it more expensive to import Canadian goods. Local governments seem to be more worried about trying to build sports stadiums and holding gala events than helping those in need of housing.

The people who are benefiting from the governments policies are the well off. They are the ones who have the sports stadiums built . While one in ten Canadians are out of work the Prime Minister is having his official residence fixed up to the tune of half a million dollars. This is typical of the hypocracy of politicians. They live the high life while "their" people go homeless.

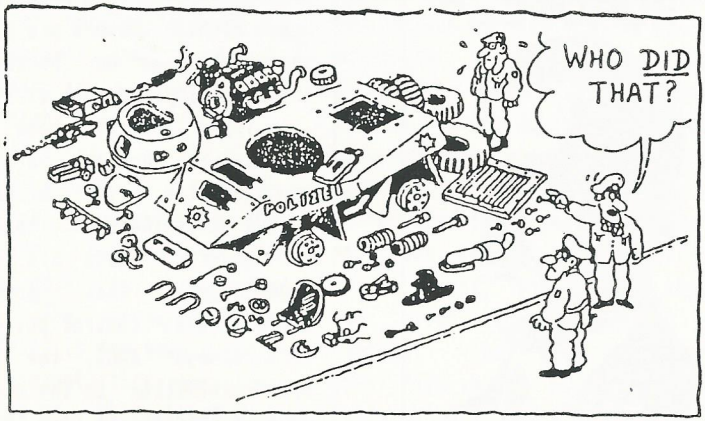
The arrogance of politicians and business people has become extremely obvious after 7 years of tory rule. People are realising the futlity of trusting politicians to help them . In B.C. the provincial government responded to the growing homelessness by arresting and evicting people who had occupied and fixed up an empty house. This is the type of response that can be expected when people try to solve problems without the consent of the rich and those in power.

If you are interested in the issue of homelessness an organisation to contact is Hamilton Against Poverty at 522-1148

Won the War Continued...

political policies will go hand in hand. The Amerikans will leave the region as they arrived, swiftly. They have enough power over their Arab 'allies' that they are assured control of the resources in the Gulf. This will reverse the pressure back onto unified Europe and Japan. Japan knows this judging by from their participation in the war. The Soviet Union will never regain it's international footing, as long as Amerika can retain it's 'stability'. Unfortunatly this new 'New World Order' under the guise of a U.N. Coalition effort will be the reformists dream, and the progressive person's worst nightmare, and this is only the beginning!

Community Organizing



is fun!

Community Charge covers local and international news from an anti-statist perspective. If you wish to contribute too, or receive this newsletter, please send an SASE to:

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